

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 QUEBEC 00329 312200Z  
ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 /033 W  
-----006751 010637Z /23

P 311715Z AUG 77  
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1098  
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY  
AMCONSUL MONTREAL

UNCLAS QUEBEC 0329

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: ELAB, CA  
SUBJ: JAMES BAY LABOR PICTURE TURNING SOUR?

1. LE SOLEIL AUGUST 29 CARRIED CANADIAN PRESS WIRE STORY REPORTING THAT LABOR SITUATION AT JAMES BAY HYDRO-ELECTRIC PROJECT CONSTRUCTION SITES WAS DETERIORATING RAPIDLY. UNION LEADERS WARNED THAT MOOD OF WORKERS HAS TURNED UGLY AND CALLED FOR URGENT MEETING TO INCLUDE QUEBEC LABOR MINISTER JOHNSON, ENERGY MINISTER JORON, SOCIETE DE LA BAIE JAMES OFFICIALS, AND UNION LEADERS, IN ORDER TO AVERT A POSSIBLE RECURRENCE OF THE VIOLENCE THAT SHOOK THE SITES IN 1973.

2. WORKERS GRIEVANCES CENTER AROUND UNSAFE AND UNCOMFORTABLE WORKING CONDITIONS. THERE HAVE BEEN TWO FATAL ACCIDENTS AT ONE SITE RECENTLY; UNION LEADEAGTHAT WORKERS ARE BEING PAID ILLEGAL BONUSES TO WORK UNDER UNSAFE CONDITIONS IN CERTAIN SITES, NOTABLY THE DAM TUNNELS. WORKER MORALE IS ALSO SUFFERING BECAUSE OF SEPARATION FROM FAMILIES, WHILE MANAGEMENT LIVE IN COMPARATIVE (AND HIGHLY VISIBLE) LUXURY WITH FAMILIES HOUSED NEAR SITES.

3. CSN-CONSTRUCTION PRESIDENT MICHEL BOURON TOLD REPORTERS THAT GRIEVANCES WERE "OF LONG STANDING," ACCUSED MANAGEMENT OF UNCLASSIFIED

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BEING UNRESPONSIVE, AND WARNED THAT AN "EXPLOSION OF ANGER" AMONG THE 6000 WORKERS WAS "ONLY A QUESTION OF WEEKS OR MONTHS AWAY."

4. COMMENT: WE SUSPECT UNION LEADERS MAY BE EXAGGERATING DEGREE OF VOLITILITY IN JAMES BAY LABOR RELATIONS. CSN SUFFERED REAL LOSS OF CREDIBILITY AMONG WORKERS AS RESULT OF 1973

DEBACLE. SENSATIONAL CHARACTER OF THEIR WARNING MAY WELL BE  
NOTHING MORE THAN ATTEMPT DRAMATIZE SITUATION AS MEANS OF  
PROMOTING THEMSELVES INTO HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE AS REPRESENT-  
ATIVES OF WORKERS. WITH PRESENT ALARMINGLY HIGH LEVEL OF  
UNEMPLOYMENT AMONG QUEBEC CONSTRUCTION WORKERS COUPLED WITH  
PRINCELY PAY CHECKS WORKERS CONTINUE TO DRAW, SEEMS HARD TO  
IMAGINE DISSATISFACTION OVER MARGINAL ISSUES RESULTING IN  
MAJOR CONFRONTATION. ISOLATION AND DEPRIVATION OF NORMAL CONTACT  
WITH OPPOSITE SEX OFTEN ENCOURAGE MAGNIFICATION OF IMPORTANCE  
OF TRIVIA. HOWEVER, GENERAL LACK OF ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT FROM  
JAMES BAY WORKERS DURING LAST WINTER'S INEFFECTIVE PROVINCE-WIDE  
CONSTRUCTION STRIKE FURTHER SUGGESTS SCEPTICISM.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CONSTRUCTION, LABOR UNIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS  
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**Errors:** N/A  
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**TAGS:** ELAB, CA  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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